

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 01831 170826Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /128 W

-----171039Z 075867 /13

R 170718Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9998
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1831

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: XV, PLSO, EFIS, AS
SUBJ: LOS: AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND UNILATERAL ECONOMIC
ZONES

REF: A. LONDON 4327, B. CANBERRA 1793 (NOTAL), C.
CANBERRA 1689 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTENSIVE QUOTE FROM FONMIN PEACOCK'S
MARCH 15 MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT WHICH
PERTAINS TO LAW OF THE SEA AND ANTARCTICA (REF B).

2. QUOTE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT DECADE, WE WILL STILL BE A
SPARSELY-POPULATED, AND RICHLY-ENDOWED COUNTRY IN A WORLD
WHICH IS GOING TO BE INCREASINGLY OVERCROWDED, SHORT OF FOOD,
ENERGY AND OTHER ESSENTIALS, AND SEIZED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF
HOW THE WORLD'S RESOURCES ARE DISTRIBUTED AND UTILIZED. THIS
IS NOT AN EMPTY CLICHE. IT POINTS TO THE HEART OF AUST-
RALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM OVER THE COMING YEARS. WE HAD
BETTER ADDRESS OURSELVES TO IT BECAUSE IT WILL CERTAINLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 01831 170826Z

ADDRESS ITSELF TO US. THOSE WHO THINK THAT IT IS A
REALISTIC APPROACH TO STAND PAT, TO WIAT AND SEE, TO
CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL, ARE SERIOUSLY UNDER-ESTIMATING
DYNAMICS OF THE SITUATION. IN MANY AREAS THE TIME FOR
DECISION IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. I WILL GIVE SOME SPECIFIC
EXAMPLES.

3. QUOTE FIRST, THE STAGE REACHED IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, AND THE DECLARATION OF A NUMBER OF OTHER STATES ON THE MATTER, MEAN THAT AUSTRALIA WILL SOON HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. THIS CONCEPT, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST DECADE, INVOLVES GIVING TO COASTAL STATES JURISDICTION OVER THE LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SEA AND SEABED UP TO 200 MILES FROM THE COAST. FOR AUSTRALIA, WITH ITS ENORMOUSLY LONG COASTLINE, IT IS A DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIQUE AND UNPRECEDENTED ORDER OF MAGNITUDE. A DECISION TO DECLARE AN ECONOMIC ZONE WILL CONFRONT US WITH A SERIES OF VITAL DECISIONS--IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING A CAPACITY TO EXPLOIT WHAT WE HAVE CLAIMED; THE KINDS OF AGREEMENT WE WILL NEED TO ENTER INTO WITH OTHERS CONCERNING THE ZONE; OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN TERMS OF RESOURCE-SHARING; AND THE PROBLEM OF SURVEILLANCE. BUT THE MATTER IS AN URGENT ONE, INVOLVING RESPONSIBILITIES BOTH TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AND TO THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING IT THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET CONCLUDED ITS WORK. WHETHER IT SUCCEEDS OR FAILS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THERE IS AT PRESENT A DEEP DIVISION OF OPINION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED STATES AND THE THIRD WORLD STATES, PARTICULARLY OVER THE QUESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME OF THE SEABED BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION. MORE GENERALLY, UP TO THE POINT THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY AN ABSENCE OF THE POLITICAL WILL AND DETERMINATION NECESSARY TO FIND AN AGREED SOLUTION. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A BREAKDOWN AND THIS WILL HAVE THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 01831 170826Z

SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING TO AVOID A BREAKDOWN. OUR DELEGATION HAS BEEN PLAYING A VALUABLE AND WELL REGARDED MEDIATORY ROLE. BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN MAY WE WILL DO NOTHING WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE ITS SUCCESS.

4. QUOTE SECOND, AND IN IMPORTANT WAYS CONNECTED TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, IS THE FUTURE OF ANTARCTICA AND ITS RESOURCES. AS THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY COMPRISES ABOUT THREE-SEVENTHS OF THE ENTIRE ANTARCTIC LAND MASS, THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO US. IT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE POWERS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. THE QUESTIONS INVOLVED ARE ENORMOUSLY COMPLEX INVOLVING LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC QUESTIONS, ACCESS AND SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE DEFINING OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN REALISTIC AND ENLIGHTENED TERMS--TERMS WHICH RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF ANTARCTICA TO THE WHOLE OF MANKIND--

IS A MAJOR AND URGENT TASK. IT IS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN. END
QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PEACOCK'S LAST SENTENCE QUOTED IN
PARA THREE ABOVE, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOA
WILL UNILATERALLY DECLARE A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE BEFORE
NEXT LOS SESSION IN MAY. WHEN, DURING A RECENT DISCUSSION
WITH MCKEOWN, DIRECTOR LOS/ANTARCTICA SECTION, DFA,
EMBOFF HALF JOKINGLY ASKED WHETHER GOA WAS GOING TO DECLARE
AN ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND "AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY,"
MCKEOWN SAID THAT EMBOFF WAS ASKING A "LEADING QUESTION,"
AND THEN IMMEDIATELY DIVERTED CONVERSATION TO FACT THAT GOA
HAD ALREADY STATED THAT NO ACTION ON ECONOMIC ZONES WOULD
BE TAKEN BEFORE MAY LOS SESSION. WHETHER OR NOT ANY FUTURE
AUSTRALIAN DECLARATION ON A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WILL
SPECIFICALLY REFER TO ANTARCTICA, IT COULD EASILY REFER
TO "ALL AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY," AND IN AS MUCH AS IN AUST-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CANBER 01831 170826Z

RALIA'S EYES THE "AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY" IS "AUST-
RALIAN TERRITORY," SUCH A DECLARATION MIGHT IPSO FACTO BE
USED BY GOA TO INCLUDE ITS CLAIMED ANTARCTIC TERRITORY.
GOA MIGHT WELL SEE THIS APPROACH AS WAY OF CIRCUMVENTING
PROVISION OF ARTICLE IV OF ANTARCTIC TREATY.
PERCIVAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, LAW OF THE SEA, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER01831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0891
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770351/aaaabrsr.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6af09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 4327, 77 CANBERRA 1793
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3083116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND UNILATERAL ECONOMIC ZONES
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, XV, AS, (PEACOCK, ANDREW S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6af09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009